World Bank loans to India

*185. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU:
SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the RBI Governor has urged the World Bank to double its loans to India and the Bank has responded in positive;

(b) if so, the appropriate modality to finalise such an issue;

(c) whether the RBI Governor's move is in keeping with that;

(d) whether Government are considering setting up a Commission to assess the impact of World Bank's loans taken by India till now;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if no, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) No Sir, The Reserve Bank Governor has not urged the World Bank to double its loan to India.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

(d) and (e) No Sir, Does not arise.

' (f) The loans and credits from World Bank are of a concessional nature with long maturity period enabling the Government to undertake developmental projects in social and infrastructure sectors which will yield long-term benefits to the country.

Backlog of cases in Supreme Court and various High Courts

*186. SHRI SOM PAL: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be, pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a huge backlog of - cases in the Supreme Court and various High courts of India;

(b) if so, what are the court-wise details thereof as on date;

(c) whether some steps have been taken to reduce this backlog;

(d) if so, what have been the results thereof; and

(e) what measures are being contompleted to bring this backlog further down?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP): (a) and (b) The information available is given in the Statement *(see below)*

(c) Apart from amending the procedural laws from time to time, Government has taken a series of steps to simplify procedures and speed up disposal of cases on the basis of the advice and recommendations of expert bodies like the Law Commission. Conference of Law Ministers, Chief Ministers and Chief Justices and other concerned with the administration of Justice are held periodically and the recommendations and conclusions emerging from such exchanges and consultations are implemented and their progress closely monitored. In addition, the Supreme Court has also taken several steps viz. more practical categorisation and grouping of cases, stabilization of Benches, no accumulation of defective matters, reservation of more time for old pending cases, better utilisation of available computer network and streamlining of administration etc.

(d) The pendency of cases in Supreme Court has come down from 107,776 cases in December, 1990 to 23,246 cases in December, 1996. Despite the increase in the disposal of cases in the High Courts from 8.38 lakhs in 1991 to 10.39 lakhs in 1995, the backlog of cases pending in High Courts has shown an upward trend, this is largely due to increased institution of cases

(e) In a continuing .endeavour of providing prompt justice, the Government intends to further simplify the judicial procedures, increase the number of posts of judges, strengthen[1] the existing infrastructure further[1] *M$ft*- providing additional funds for; the> construction, of court buildings and